

The Tragedie of Hamlet

Ham. How long will a man lie i'th earth ere he rot?

Clow. Fayth if a be not rotten before a die, as we haue many poe-
kie corfes, that will scarce hold the laying in, a will last you some eyght
yeere, or nine yeere. A Tanner will last you nine yeere.

Ham. Why he more then another?

Clow. Why sir, his hide is so tanned with his trade, that a will keepe
out water a great while; & your water is a fore decay of your whor-
son dead body, heer's a scull now hath lyen you i'th earth 23. yeeres.

Ham. Whose was it?

Clow. A whorson mad fellowes it was, whose do you think it was?

Ham. Nay I know not.

Clow. A pestilence on him for a madde rogue, a poured a flagon of
Renish on my head once; this same skull sir, was sir *Yoricks* skull, the
Kings Iester.

Ham. This?

Clow. Een that.

Ham. Alas poore *Yoricke*, I knew him *Horatio*, a fellow of infinite
iest, of most excellent fancie, hee hath bore me on his backe a thou-
sand times, and now how abhorred in my imagination it is: my gorge
rises at it. Heere hung those lippes that I haue kist I know not howe
oft, where be your gibes now? your gamboles, your songs, your fla-
shes of merriment, that were wont to set the table on a roare, not one
now to mocke your owne grinning, quite chopfalne, Now get you
to my Ladies table, & tell her, let her paint an inch thicke, to this fa-
uour she must come, make her laugh at that.

Prethee Horatio tell me one thing.

Hora. What's that my Lord?

Ham. Doo'st thou thinke *Alexander* lookt a this fashion i'th earth?

Hora. Een so.

Ham. And smelt so pah.

Hora. Een so my Lord.

Ham. To what base vses wee may returne *Horatio*? Why may not
imagination trace the noble dust of *Alexander*, till a find it stopping
a bung-hole?

Hora. Ewere to consider too curiously to consider so.

Ham. No faith, not a iot, but to follow him thether with modestly
enough, and likelyhood to leade it. *Alexander* dyed, *Alexander* was
buried, *Alexander* returneth to dust, the dust is earth, of earth vvee
make Lome, & why of that Lome whereto he was conuerted, might
they

Prince of Denmarke.

they not stoppe a Beare-barrell?

Imperious *Cesar* dead, and turn'd to Clay,

Might stoppe a hole, to keepe the wind away.

O that that earth which kept the world in awe,

Should patch a wall & expell the waters flaw.

But soft, but soft awhile, here comes the King,

The Queene, the Courtiers, who is this they follow?

And with such maimed rites? this doth betoken,

The corse they follow, did with desprat hand

Foredoe it owne life, twas of some estate,

Couch we a while and marke.

Laer. What Ceremonie els?

Ham. That is *Laertes* a very noble youth, marke.

Laer. What Ceremonie els?

Dost. Her obsequies haue been as farre inlarg'd
As we haue warrantie, her death was doubtfull,

And but that great commaund ore-swayes the order,

She should in ground vnsanctified been lodg'd

Till the last trumpet: for charitable prayers,

Flints and peebles should be throwne on her:

Yet heere she is allow'd her virgin Crants,

Her mayden strewments, and the bringing home

Of bell and buriall.

Laer. Must there no more be doone?

Dost. No more be doone.

We should prophane the seruice of the dead,

To sing a Requiem and such rest to her

As to peace-parted soules.

Laer. Lay her i'th earth,

And from her faire and vnpolluted flesh

May Violets spring: I tell thee churlish Priest,

A ministring Angell shall my sister be

When thou lye'st howling.

Ham. What, the faire *Ophelia*.

Quee. Sweets to the sweet, farewell,

I hop't thou should'st haue been my *Hamlets* wife,

I thought thy bride-bed to haue deckt sweet maide,

And not haue strew'd thy graue.

Laer. O treble woe

Enter K. *Q.*
Laertes and
the corse.

Exit